

OCD RDP 506

CLASSIFICATION ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone)

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

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TOPIC: Military Information from Oranienburg

EVALUATION: [REDACTED]

PLACE OBTAINED: [REDACTED]

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DATE OF CONTENT: 5 and 7 January 1951

DATE OBTAINED: [REDACTED]

DATE PREPARED: 6 February 1951

REFERENCES:

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REMARKS:

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1. The barracks installation on Bernauer-Allee, which includes the former concentration camp, was occupied by not more than 10,000 troops on 5 January 1951. It has a billeting capacity of about 20,000 men. The buildings of the former concentration camp were being winterized. They seemed to be occupied only by enlisted personnel and some NCOs. Troops observed in the billeting area wore red-bordered black epaulets, some with tank insignia. Local residents said that, in addition to the tank unit, another unit of an unknown branch of service was stationed in the billeting area. [REDACTED] unable to gather information on this second unit. *

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2. The castle of Oranienburg was occupied by two or three companies, primarily recruits. The troops seen there wore red-bordered black epaulets. **
3. The number of troops in the Weisse Stadt settlement was estimated at 1,200. The windows of all seven blocks of the settlement were lighted on the evening of 7 January. Troops observed wore red-bordered black epaulets. The buildings situated at a right angle to the dwelling blocks were probably used as garages. **

- * [REDACTED] Comment. The report for the first time gives an estimate of the total billeting capacity of the entire billeting area, which includes the barracks installation on Bernauer-Allee and the former concentration camp. [REDACTED] this estimate on previous knowledge dating from the time when the concentration camp was occupied by political prisoners. This knowledge, however, offers no yardstick by which the billeting capacity for troops can be measured. It is believed that the actual capacity is essentially below 20,000 men. The report also states for the first time that the concentration camp buildings were being winterized, which may be correct. The statement on the present occupation of the concentration camp agrees with previous reports which stated that most of the camp buildings were vacant and that only guard details were quartered there. The 10,000 troops reportedly stationed in the billeting area can only have been quartered in the southern section of the entire installation, namely in the SS-Kaserne, also called Panzer-Kaserne, on Bernauer-Allee.

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[redacted] reported to have been occupied by not less than 2,500 troops on 1 January 1951.

The strength figures given in the present report are believed to have been substantially exaggerated and are discredited.

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** [redacted] Comment. The information on the other installations in Oranienburg agrees essentially with previous reports.

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